5-1991

The NEBLINE, May 1991

"Helping you put knowledge to work"

The NEBLINE®

University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension
Lancaster County

May 1991
Vol. IV, No. 6

Office Hours:
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

Phone: 471-7180
Fax: 471-7148
RBBS: 471-7149
444 Cherrycreek Road
Lincoln, NE 68528-1507

Come meet our staff!

Two new staff members will join the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County office on May 1. At the same time, two current staff members will change job assignments. You are invited to a special Open House on May 9 between 4 and 7 p.m. to meet our new staff members.

Alice Henneman, extension agent-home economics, will be moving to a full-time extension nutrition, food safety and consumer economics position. Alice has been serving the Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (on a 55 percent time appointment) as program administrator for Lancaster County. This change will strengthen extension's support of the important program area of consumer economics. Henneman replaces Twyla Lidolph who

Lorene Bartos

who retired in 1990. The position has been vacant since Lidolph's retirement.

Lorene Bartos, extension assistant in the 4-H program since 1972, will also change duties. Bartos will move into general consumer and family economics program support with only minor 4-H responsibilities. This is a new position created with the change of duties associated with the Henneman-Lidolph position changes.

The first new staff member to join us will be David Swarts. Swarts will fill the vacancy created in 4-H by the resignation of Mark McCaslin, who became extension agent-chair in Otoe County. Swarts is a former Lancaster County 4-H and FFA member from the Waverly area. He graduated from UNL with a bachelor of science degree in animal science in 1972.

The 4-H home economics vacancy created by the transfer of Bartos will be filled on a temporary basis, by Marilee Kabes, until September 1991.

Join the county extension staff on May 9, between

Alice Henneman

4 and 7 p.m., at the Lancaster Extension Conference Center, 444 Cherrycreek Rd., to welcome the new and the old. We also invite you to stay for the Karen Dwyer low-cal/low-cholesterol microwave cooking demonstration which begins at 7 p.m. (see page — for details). DDM

Camp scholarships

Summertime will be here before you know it and with summer comes camping. The Lincoln Action Program (LAP) will again provide scholarships to summer camps for low-income youth age 7-16.

LAP scholarships cover the full cost of one-week camp stays, as well as day camps. Activities offered at the camps include arts and crafts, horseback riding and swimming. Six area camps will be used. Some provide transportation for the youth to and from camp, and for others car pooling may be arranged. A camp scholarship application from LAP provides a description of each camp. The opportunity is provided, on the application form, to make a first, second and third choice. LAP cannot guarantee that each child will get her/his preferred choice, though every effort is made to do so.

LAP raises private funds each year to support the camp program. The number of dollars raised determines the number of youth sent to camp.

Sign-up will begin in April and is done through Chapter I schools, human service agencies, or LAP. The eligibility guidelines are: youth must be low-income, preference given to single-headed households, child has not received a LAP scholarship in the past, and special consideration is given to foster children or those with special needs. Interested families can contact LAP for applications. For more information, contact Teresa Bergman at 471-4515.

Making compost benefits garden

Your garden will benefit from compost. It improves the soil tilth and makes the finest plants grow even better.

Compost is easy to make. All you need is raw organic matter and soil. The most common materials for raw organic matter are leaves, pulled weeds, grass clippings, garden refuse and manure.

Build the compost pile in an out-of-the-way section of your back yard. It's best to locate the pile in a shady spot, but not under a tree since roots may grow into the pile. Make an open-end bin or box to hold the compost. It can be 3 to 4 feet wide, 3 to 4 feet high and any length. You can build the box of wire fencing or snow fence supported by posts, or of rough boards. Bricks or cement blocks may also be used.

To make the compost pile, alternate layers of raw organic material and soil. Start with organic matter, 6 inches deep, if the material is fairly solid; or 12 inches deep if it is loose. Add water if the material is dry.

Add a one-inch layer of soil and continue to alternate layers of organic matter and soil as described until the pile is 3 to 4 feet high. Be sure to make the pile slightly higher on the sides for easy watering. Complete the pile with a soil layer on the top and sides.

Keep your compost pile moist, but not soggy. There will be no odor if the pile is moist and if soil is kept on the top and sides as well as between the layers of organic material. You don't have to turn the pile if properly made and allowed to decompose one full summer before use. For a continuous compost supply, make more than one pile. Be sure the compost is thoroughly rotted before it is applied to your garden. It should be ready for use in about one year. ***See page 2 for compost bin designs.*** (DJ)

Take precautions to limit herbicide drift

Herbicide injury problems from drift and volatility occur each year, but this spring the situation may be worse. Wet fields have delayed planting and backed up the work load. As a result, many farmers may rely more on postemergence weed control than on preplant incorporated treatments. In addition, because time is short, many treatments may be applied under less than ideal conditions. Our office already has received several calls regarding drift complaints. It is important to minimize off-target pesticide movement of farm chemicals as well as turfgrass herbicides.

Herbicide drift is caused by several factors, some of which are easier to control than others. Environmental factors such as wind, air temperature and temperature inversions often are the most important. Try to apply chemicals when wind speeds are low, preferably below 10 mph, and air temperatures are low (75 degrees). Volatile herbicides have a greater potential for causing injury as air and soil temperatures increase. Injury is also greater under conditions of high relative humidity.

Temperature inversions are another environmental concern. Applying a pesticide during a temperature inversion can result in significant off-target pesticide movement. Inversions usually occur early in the morning or late in the afternoon when cool air near the soil surface is trapped under a layer of warmer air. The applied pesticide can be suspended in the warm air layers where it is more susceptible to displacement by wind movement. Use a small fire or smoke bomb to detect an inversion. Smoke moving horizontally close to the ground signals an inversion and chemicals should not be applied.

Application techniques can be adjusted to minimize spray drift and are more easily controlled than environmental conditions. Keep the spray as close to the target weeds as possible. The higher the spray is released above the target, the more likely it is to move to non-target plants. Use non-volatile herbicide formulations when available and keep spray pressures low. The lower the pressure, the larger the spray droplets, and the less likelihood of drift. Nozzle types and spray additives also are available to reduce the number of fine droplets and thus drift. Leave an untreated border strip next to susceptible plants. (DV)

How to exhibit - May 14

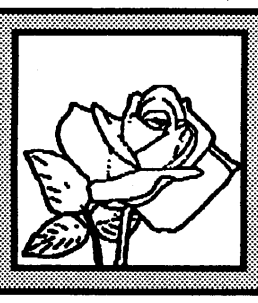
Leaders and parents are encouraged to attend the "How to Exhibit" Workshop, Tuesday, May 14, 9:30 a.m. or 7 p.m. Participants will receive an update on county fair exhibits, what judges look for in an exhibit, how to display items for the fair, and how to fill out entry tags and forms. If you have questions, call Lorene. (LB)

Extension Phone Numbers:

Office: (leave message after hours)	471-7180
After hours:	471-7170
Fax:	471-7148
NEBLINE RBBS:	471-7149

University of Nebraska
Cooperative Extension
in Lancaster County
444 Cherrycreek Road
Lincoln, Nebraska 68528-1507

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 537
Lincoln, Nebraska



On-the-Grow

Horticulture News

Don Janssen
Extension Agent, Horticulture
Mary Jane McReynolds
Extension Assistant, Horticulture

Watering new shade trees

Newly planted shade trees need a lot of "TLC" to become successfully established. Because of Nebraska's climate extremes, supplemental water may be the most critical factor in establishing shade trees.

The frequency and amount of water depends on the type of soil and weather conditions. For example, sandy soils lose water faster than heavier clay soils and should be watered more frequently. Also, trees should be watered more often during drought periods.

As a good rule of thumb, newly planted trees should receive one good soaking per week. Soak the soil to a depth of at least 2 feet. Depending on the soil type, this would require an application of approximately 50 gallons of water. One deep soaking weekly is much better than daily light waterings.

Don't rely on the lawn sprinkler to water newly planted trees along with the grass. Watering with a lawn sprinkler usually doesn't penetrate deep enough for tree roots to use much of it. The same principle applies to natural rain: Do not rely on natural precipitation unless the amount and frequency is adequate.

A saucer shaped basin constructed around the base of the tree will aid in watering. The basin should be about 2 inches deep and 3-4 feet in diameter. Place excess soil and sod pieces around the rim of the basin to form a ridge. The basin will hold water until it can soak away. The basin area can be mulched with 3-4 inches of good mulch material (wood chips, sawdust, etc.) to conserve moisture, prevent weed competition and insulate the roots from heat and cold extremes. (DJ)

Garden tips to minimize disease

Good planning of the garden site is the first step in minimizing plant diseases. Select a garden site with well-drained soil. Avoid sites with abundant shade and those close to windbreaks. Such sites may decrease drying of the foliage, and this can cause an increase in disease. Check for soil nutrient levels by soil analysis.

Proper fertilization should encourage vigorous growth, but growth that is overly lush may be more susceptible to disease. If compost is used, be sure that it is well rotted to avoid introducing disease organisms. Rotation of vegetables grown — planting the same vegetable in the same space only twice in seven years — is another effective way to minimize disease.

Choose varieties that are resistant or tolerant to serious plant diseases and use seed from a reputable dealer. Planting at the proper time encourages fast germination and vigorous growth, with less chance of damping-off and root rot diseases. Plants should not be overcrowded. Overcrowding can decrease ventilation and reduce leaf drying which may lead to foliage disease.

Maintenance of the garden is important. Watering at the base of the plants by furrow, drip or trickle irrigation helps reduce diseases. Mulching helps to maintain a uniform moisture and temperature level in the soil.

Severely diseased plants should be removed since they are not likely to yield well and may contribute to disease build-up. (DJ)

Summer flowering perennials

Herbaceous perennials that bloom in the spring, such as tulips, daffodils, iris, peonies, and many others, are familiar plants found in almost every garden. Chrysanthemums and asters are popular fall-blooming perennials. Summer-flowering perennials are often absent in many gardens. Fortunately, there are many good plants to choose from to fill this void. Perennials which bloom in June, July and August include:

Yarrow (Achillea spp.) Zone 4, blooms June through September; flowers are yellow, white, pink or red in flat-topped clusters; fern-like foliage and strong scented; prefers full sun and well drained soil; native plant that does well in naturalized areas; grows 1 to 3 feet tall.

Cupid's Dart (Catananche caerulea) Zone 5, blooms June through August; blue or white flowers are daisy-like rays with toothed petals, good cut or dried flower; full sun, good in mass planting; grows 1 to 2 feet tall.

Coreopsis or Tickseed (Coreopsis spp.) Zone 4, blooms June through September; disk-like flowers are yellow or orange, full sun; good as a border, mass planting, naturalized area; grows 2 to 3 feet tall.

Purple Coneflower (Echinacea purpurea) Zone 4, blooms July through August; cone-shaped purple to pink flowers, good cut flower; prefers full sun and well drained soils; native plant good in naturalized areas; grows 2 to 4 feet tall.

Lavender (Lavandula angustifolia) Zone 5, blooms June through August; lavender to purple spike flowers, very aromatic; full sun; cut flowers used in sachets and potpourris; grows 1 to 3 feet tall.

Blazing Star or Gayfeather (Liatris pycnostachya and L. spicata) Zone 4, blooms June to September; purple, rose or white flower spikes, good cut or dried flower; attracts butterflies and bees; well-drained soils; native prairie wildflower; grows 2 to 5 feet tall.

Daylily (Hemerocallis spp.) Zone 4, bloom can be extended from June through September by planting several varieties, flower colors include yellow, orange, red, and purple; full sun to partial shade; divide clumps every 4 to 5 years; grows 1 to 3 feet tall.

Bee Balm (Monarda didyma) Zone 5, scarlet-red flower heads are 2 to 3 inches in diameter, white, pink, and purple varieties are also available; flowers attract hummingbirds, butterflies and bees; full sun, good in naturalized areas; grows 1 to 3 feet tall.

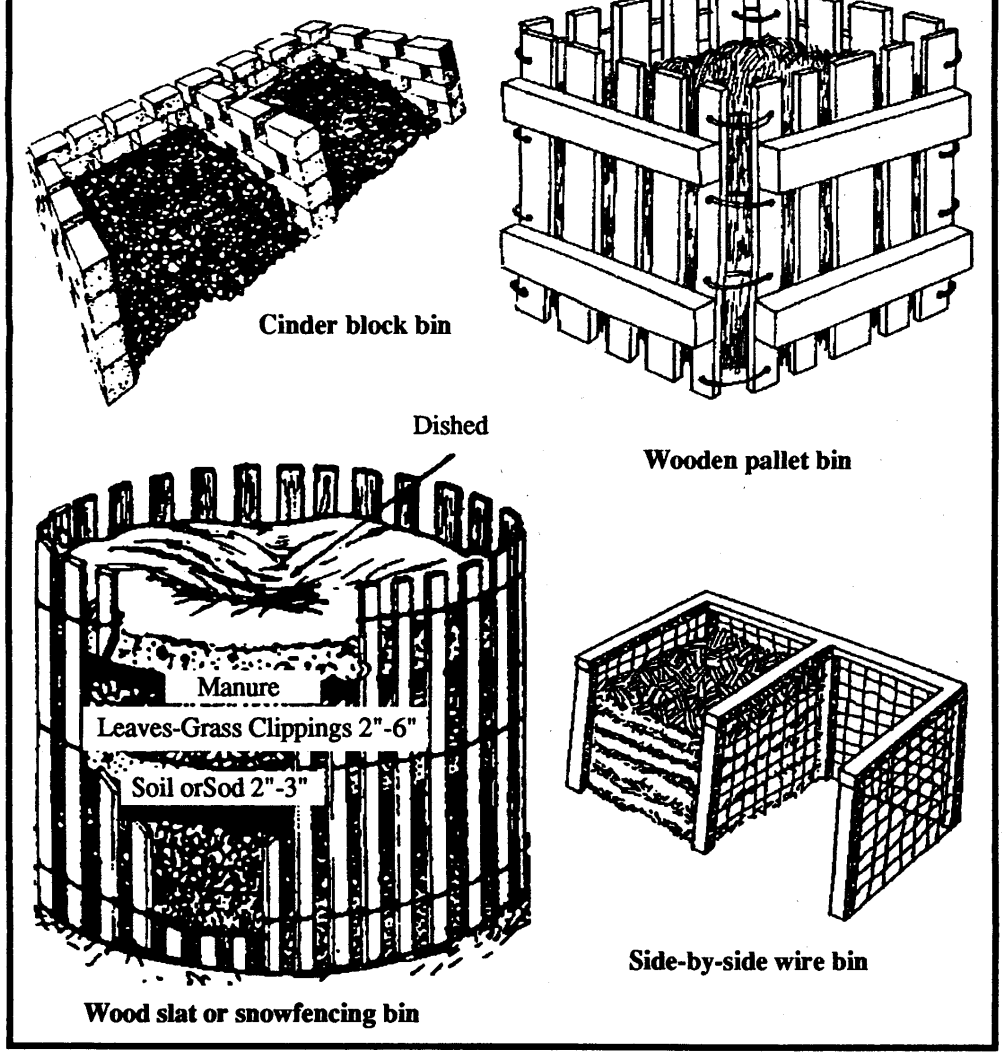
Summer Phlox (Phlox paniculata) Zone 5, blooms June through July; produces large clusters of flowers in white, pink, red, blue, and purple; well-drained soils; grows 2 to 3 feet tall.

Obedient Plant (Physostegia virginiana) Zone 4, blooms July through September; flower's spikes are arranged in 4 vertical rows; partial shade to full sun; grows 2 to 4 feet tall.

Other good summer blooming perennials are Lady's Mantel, Bugloss, Bellflower, Perennial Bachelor's Button, Larkspur, Foxglove, Sweet Rocket, Hibiscus, Flax, Lupine, Evening Primrose, Penstemon, Pincushion Flower, Spiderwort and Shasta Daisy. (MJM)

Compost bin designs:

(see related article on page 1)



Instant meadows

Collections of wildflower seed mixes, when properly established, may provide an alternative to a manicured lawn, and will require less water and maintenance. However, the proper establishment of a wildflower meadow may be more involved than the package label indicates. Generally, you cannot just toss out an instant meadow, stand back and watch it grow.

Here are some guidelines to buying and establishing a meadow mix in your landscape:

— Make sure the mix has plant species adapted to Nebraska growing conditions and your particular site. Flowering mixes look best in sites where they receive 6 to 8 hours of sun each day. If the mix contains grasses, the grasses may be so vigorous that perennial flowering species may have a hard time becoming established. For a "real" meadow, choose a mix of flowering annuals and perennials, and plan on overseeding the area with smaller native grasses like side-oats grama or little bluestem in the third or fourth year.

— Start out with a small area, no more than 1000 square feet. Remove existing turf or plants. Prepare soil by tilling and then lightly discing or raking after the first 2 or 3 flushes of weed seed germination. Supplementary fertilization is not needed.

— Use a light seeding rate: 5 to 6 pounds per acre or 4 ounces per 1000 square feet. Mix seed with sand to ensure even spreading. Rake lightly to cover seeds. Keep area moist for 4 to 6 weeks and then gradually reduce watering.

— Weeds which emerge with desirable wildflowers will have to be pulled. If they aren't, your meadow will look like a vacant lot.

— Establish paths through meadow by mowing with a lawn mower. Even without paths, meadows require yearly mowing. Mow meadows in the fall after plants drop seeds or in very early spring. Mow to 4 to 6 inches.

— Even if successfully established, a wildflower meadow will not look the same from year to year. Annual species may flower dramatically the first year. However, unless reseeded or allowed to resow themselves, these annuals will be replaced by biennial or perennial plants the following year. This changing "tapestry" of the wildflower meadow is part of its delight, but some people are still surprised by it. (DJ)

more horticulture news on pages 4 & 7

Side dressing

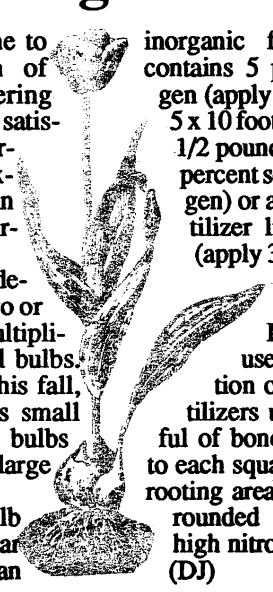
Nitrogen may leach out of the soil as you water your garden. An application of nitrogen fertilizer beside the row of growing plants can be applied when corn is 12 to 18 inches high, after fruits are set on tomatoes, and when plants lack a healthy green appearance.

Side dressing isn't a cure-all for vegetable plant problems, and you can overfertilize your garden. Do not use more than one pound of ammonium nitrate or two-thirds of a pound of urea per 100 feet of row.

Do not exceed these rates or you may over stimulate plant growth. Apply the fertilizer beside the row and water the fertilizer in, if possible.

Use nitrogen fertilizer sparingly in the garden. (DJ)

Maintaining bulb vigor



Now is the time to evaluate the bloom of your spring flowering bulbs. If you're not satisfied either with the arrangement or the extent of bloom, plan now for your fall purchase of bulbs.

Tulips often decline in vigor after two or three years due to multiplication of the original bulbs. If you dig them up this fall, you'll find numerous small (non-flowering size) bulbs in place of the single large one.

To maintain bulb vigor from year to year fertilize now. Either an inorganic fertilizer that contains 5 percent nitrogen (apply 1 pound for a 5 x 10 foot flower bed or 1/2 pound if using a 10 percent source of nitrogen) or an organic fertilizer like bonemeal (apply 3 pounds per 5 x 10 foot flowerbed). If one wants to use a combination of the two fertilizers use one handful of bonemeal applied to each square foot of the rooting area along with 1 rounded teaspoon of high nitrogen fertilizer. (DJ)

Rhubarb

Rhubarb is a perennial grown for its leaf stalks. The leaves are poisonous and should not be eaten. Rhubarb tolerates most soils, but grows best on fertile loams with a good supply of organic matter. It should be planted in the spring or early fall. Space crowns three feet apart and rows five feet apart. Cover the buds with at least one inch of soil. Firm the soil around the roots, but keep it loose over the buds. Water the crowns after planting. Plants may be started from seed, but it takes two years to get a harvest. Give the plant a 1/4 cup of 5-10-10 fertilizer worked into the top ten inches of soil at planting time. Each spring give each plant one cup of fertilizer applied in a circle around the plant when growth starts. When flower stalks appear, remove them. Divide the plants when the stalks get small and spindly. Divide in the spring with each division getting a portion of old root and some buds.

Rhubarb is not harvested the same season it is planted and is only harvested lightly the second year. When harvesting, pick less than 1/3 of the stalks from any one plant. The harvest season is from early May to July. Rhubarb may be harvested later but very few stalks should be taken from any one plant. Harvest rhubarb by grasping the stalk near the base and pulling it sideways. Insect pest for rhubarb is rhubarb curculio and diseases include crown rot or leaf spot. (MJM)

No-till Drill Expo

May 2

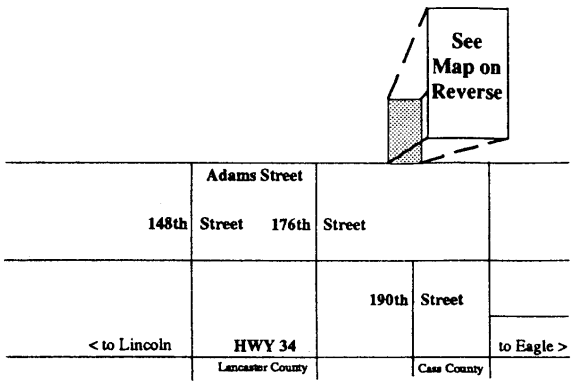
(May 9 - raindate) *

10 a.m to 1 p.m.

at the University of Nebraska

Rogers Memorial Farm

18500 Adams Street



From Lincoln:
East on Hwy. 34 to 176th Street, 2 miles north to Adams Street, 1 mile east, north side of road.

From Eagle:
West on Hwy. 34 to first road west of Eagle, 2 miles north to Adams Street, 1 mile west, north side of road.

Drills Scheduled to Appear:

Great Plains
The Tye Company
CrustBuster
John Deere
Krause
Land Tracker
GT Inc.
United Farm Tools
Case IH

You will see these drills planting soybeans into wheat and sorghum stubble.

Lunch will follow the drill demonstrations.

Mention of trade and company names are for the reader's benefit. No endorsement is intended nor is any criticism of similar equipment which is not shown by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

You Will Learn . . .

- about the features that each drill offers
- adjustments required for various planting conditions
- how to manage crop residues for more effective planting

PLUS . . . *see JD Max-Emerge and IH Early Riser planters operate under the same field conditions.*

Come share your conservation tillage experiences with drills and planters.

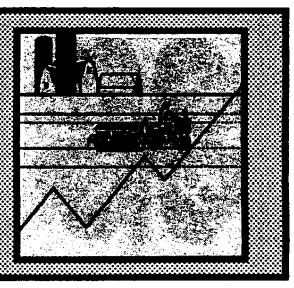
* If there are questionable weather conditions on May 2, call the Cass Co.(267-2205) or Lancaster Co. (471-7180) extension office to confirm if the event will be postponed until the raindate.

Sponsored by University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension - Metro and SE Six Programming Units
(Cass, Douglas, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, Sarpy and Saunders Counties)
University of Nebraska Biological Systems Engineering Department

Cooperative Extension provides information and educational programs to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, sex or handicap.

Ag Update
Agricultural News & Events

Don D. Miller, Ext. Agent, Chair
Warder Shires, Ext. Agent, Ag
David Varner, Ext. Agent, Ag



Clover leaf weevil common in alfalfa

During 1990, producers in eastern Nebraska had to contend with clover leaf weevil in their alfalfa in addition to the alfalfa weevil. Reports from last year indicated that as many as 30 to 40 larvae were found per square foot in some counties. In most cases, however, the adult clover leaf weevil caused more damage than the larva. Several producers said their losses were greater due to the adult clover leaf weevil rather than the alfalfa weevil.

It is too early to predict how heavy the infestation will be this year from either the clover leaf weevil or the alfalfa weevil. The entomologists say that the warm dry springs of the past two years resulted in a build-up of the clover weevil population. Our advice is to scout your alfalfa fields every four or five days prior to the first cutting to determine infestations by either, or both, species of weevil.

Some growers are not sure whether they are finding clover leaf weevils or alfalfa weevils. From a distance both the larvae and adults of these two species look very similar.

The following tables describe the difference between the two species:

Alfalfa Weevil
- Overwinter primarily as adults.
- Adults are brown with a dark brown stripe halfway down the back, have a snout on their head, and are 3/16 inch long.
- Larvae prefer to feed on newly emerging leaves at stem tip.
- Larvae remain on plant most of the time.
- Larvae have black heads.
- Adults leave fields in June.

Clover Leaf Weevil
- Overwinter primarily as larvae.
- Adults are dark brown, pitted light brown underneath, have a snout on their head and are over 1/4 inch long.
- Larvae prefer to feed on lower and middle leaves.
- Larvae feed on plant at night and during the day rest in debris at base of plant.
- Larvae have brown heads.
- Adults may remain in fields into July.

(WLS)

Mobile sheep clinic

The Mobile Sheep Clinic is coming to our area! Plan to attend this interesting clinic on Saturday, May 18, beginning at 8:30 a.m., in Wahoo, at the Saunders County Fairgrounds (southeast part of Wahoo).

Activities will include identification of six breeds of sheep and learning their production qualities. You will also learn how to select market lambs and breeding ewes. Ultrasounding will be demonstrated on pregnant ewes and on live market lambs for carcass evaluation. A fitting and showing session will be included for beginners.

The cost of the sheep clinic is $3 per person. Four-H sheep project members, leaders and local sheep producers are encouraged to attend. The clinic is open to the public. The Mobile Sheep Clinic is sponsored by the University of Nebraska Metro Programming Unit (Lancaster, Saunders, Sarpy and Douglas counties). (DV)

Cut alfalfa early for leaf disease control

Alfalfa, the Queen of the forages, is subject to several foliar diseases that can severely reduce hay quality, yield and plant vigor because of premature leaf loss. In Nebraska, the common foliar diseases include; spring black stem and leaf spot, Lepto leaf spot, common leaf spot, and yellow leaf blotch. Cool to moderate temperatures coupled with wet, humid weather favor their development. When weather conditions are ideal for disease development, severe spotting, yellowing, and premature leaf drop occur.

Growers are encouraged to scout their fields periodically as the time for first cutting approaches. Harvest early if foliar diseases are causing defoliation. By cutting before significant leaf drop occurs, growers can avoid losses in yield and quality. Also, early harvesting helps protect future cuttings by removing infected leaves which serve as a source of inoculum for new infections on plant regrowth.

Do not harvest alfalfa before the early to mid-bud stage to allow sufficient time for replenishing carbohydrate reserves in the root. For more information on specific alfalfa leaf spotting diseases, consult NebGuide G80-488, Leaf Spot and Black Stem Diseases of Alfalfa. (DV)

more ag news on page 6...

Cooperative Extension System

Chinch bug control requires early planning

If the weather continues to be drier than normal, we expect the chinch bug will cause as many or more problems than it did in 1990.

Sorghum growers in southeast Nebraska need to start planning how they will deal with the chinch bug. If they wait until summer when it is damaging sorghum, it will be too late and part or all of the crop may be lost.

What do we know right now about the likelihood for chinch bug problems during 1991? There are large numbers of chinch bugs now moving from overwintering sites into wheat and other small grains in southeastern counties. The weather has been ideal for survival of the chinch bug during the past several years, leading to increased numbers and distribution of this pest. If the weather continues to be drier than normal between now and the time the wheat matures, we would expect that the chinch bug will cause as many or more problems for sorghum growers in southeast Nebraska than it did in 1990.

What can be done now to prepare for this likely invasion? Consider planting soybeans or alfalfa (or some other broadleaf crop that is not a chinch bug host) instead of sorghum or corn. At least consider planting non-host crops in fields near wheat. Planting sorghum or corn next to wheat is asking for trouble that you may not be able to deal with effectively.

What if sorghum or corn must be planted? Consider planting them some distance away from wheat fields, with trap crops like sudangrass or sudax in between. These can be treated repeatedly with insecticides to kill chinch bugs before they migrate to the susceptible crop. Many growers have successfully used trap crops, but remember that the trap crop may need to be destroyed if insecticide applications exceed the labeled guidelines.

Is it advisable to use a planting time application of Furadan 15G insecticide when planting sorghum or corn in the high or moderate risk area? This method will only provide protection for two to three weeks for low to moderate chinch bug infestation levels during the seeding stage. We suggest growers consider using this planting time treatment when seedling emergence and establishment is expected to coincide with maturing of nearby winter wheat infested with chinch bugs. This is particularly important when sorghum or corn are planted into infested wheat stubble or destroyed wheat and when sorghum or corn are planted near infested wheat that is maturing.

How effective are foliar insecticides in controlling chinch bugs? When infestation levels are high, as they have been during the past two years, the performance of the foliar insecticides has not been satisfactory for most growers. The problem is that like most insecticides, Sevin XLR and Furadan 4F do not kill all of the targeted insects. They kill a certain percentage of the insects in the field and the remaining ones survive to continue feeding and eventually reproduce. If there are 1,000 chinch bugs per foot of row in a field and the insecticide does a good job and kills 90% of them, that still leaves 100 surviving chinch bugs to continue damaging the crop. The problem is further compounded by the fact that during migrations, additional chinch bugs will move into previously treated areas within a few days and they will likely not be affected by insecticide residues in the field. Remember that chinch bugs generally must be contacted by the insecticide to obtain control. Do not depend solely on foliar applications of insecticides to save your sorghum or corn from serious damage due to high chinch bug infestations.

What about treating wheat to reduce chinch bug numbers before they move into sorghum and corn later on? This practice has been tested in Nebraska and Kansas and the results generally were not satisfactory. These experiments involved applications made relatively late in the season, when the crop had a protective canopy that reduced the ability of the insecticide spray droplets to contact the chinch bugs. Also, these applications were made after the first generation of chinch bug nymphs had been produced, which results in larger numbers of the insect in the field and higher numbers of survivors, given a certain percent of control.

Should growers consider the use of insecticides that are not EPA registered? Absolutely not! It is illegal to use a pesticide on a crop for which it is not registered and which is not mentioned on the product label. Illegal use of insecticides can result in condemnation or confiscation of the treated crop, fines, and/or jail sentences. Furthermore, poor chinch bug control will likely result. We are not aware of any insecticide that is not registered for pB'= the control of chinch bugs on sorghum that is likely to be more effective for this use than the insecticides that are currently registered. Do yourself, your family, and your farming enterprise a favor by planning ahead to avoid large losses due to chinch bugs this season. (WLS)

The Cloverline

4-H News and Events

Maureen Burson
Extension Agent, 4-H
Arlene Hanna
Extension Assistants, 4-H

Learn contest judging first hand

Thursday, June 6, 1 p.m., 4-H'ers will have a chance to learn decision making skills, and home economics and general contest procedures. This practice session will give 4-H'ers a first hand experience at judging. (LB)

Practice Style Revue

Modeling techniques will be demonstrated Tuesday, June 25, 2:30 p.m. at the practice style review. Four-H'ers wanting to learn more about modeling at the county fair contest are invited to attend. Sewing for Fun members are invited even though there is not a contest category for this project. Members will have the opportunity to practice modeling techniques. (LB)

All 4-H sheep need to be tagged

The final 4-H sheep tagging date will be Tuesday, June 4, between 4 and 6:30 p.m., at the 4-H sheep barn on the Nebraska State Fairgrounds. All market lambs and commercial breeding ewes must be tagged, all registered ewes require two ear tags, one herd tag and one 4-H tag. Ewes do not need to be tagged, if the breed association uses metal tags. A scale will be available during tagging for 4-H and FFA market lambs in the county rate-of-gain contest. Lambs will not be sheared during weighing and tagging. (WS)

Enter the Ak-Sar-Ben Broiler Contest

The entry forms for the Ak-Sar-Ben Broiler contest are due June 20. Forms are available at the extension office. Four-H'ers will purchase 25 broiler chicks and show a pen of five at Ak-Sar-Ben this fall. The contest has continued to grow each year and this looks to be the biggest ever. This is a relatively low cost project that allows 4-H'ers to experience the fun of a large regional livestock show.

This year, the age requirement for Ak-Sar-Ben has been lowered to 10 years of age for everyone except horse exhibitors. Contest will be September 29. (ALH)

Nebraska range youth camp

The 28th Annual Nebraska Range Youth Camp will be held June 10-14 at the State 4-H Camp in Halsey, Nebraska. Young people 14-18 years old by October 1, 1991 are eligible to attend. For more information, contact the extension office. (MB)

Shoot for this contest

Four-H youth planning to enter the shooting sports contest at the Lancaster County Fair need to enroll in the shooting sports project. It is important that youth planning to participate in the county fair contest are properly trained by a certified instructor before they begin competition. Youth receive the best firearm training when several club members work together on the project in a cooperative effort with club leaders and parents. Leaders must successfully complete the state administered shooting sports training course to be a certified instructor.

Shooting sports contest participants must provide their own equipment for the contest, which includes a rifle, and safety equipment such as eye and ear protection. Participants should also wear a white shirt with 4-H identification.

To register for the BB, pellet or trapshooting competition, 4-H'ers should call the extension office by Monday, July 22. Note that the trapshooting competition will take place as a pre-fair event on Saturday, August 3. (DV)

Market broiler contest revision for county fair

Entries for the county market broiler project are due May 15. Forms are available at the extension office. The participants will purchase 20 chicks and show a pen of three at the county fair. Change in pick up date: Birds need to be picked up on June 14 at the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County. (ALH)

Help needed at county fair

Adults and youth 12 years old and older are needed to help at the county fair during entering, judging and displaying of exhibits. Food, clothing, home environment, general, engineering and horticulture departments need assistants, Monday, August 5, 4-8 p.m. and Tuesday, August 6, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-5 p.m. Assistants will write comments for judges, and display exhibits. Call the extension office to sign up! (LB)

Market turkey contest weight revisions

Turkey entries are limited to one entry per exhibitor. Each pen of two birds must weigh between 28 and 40 pounds at the time they are entered. Pens not falling within this weight range will not be allowed to compete for grand or reserve awards in the turkey contest, but will be able to compete for a ribbon placing and premium in the turkey class at the 1991 Lancaster County Fair. Individual birds must weigh between 14 and 20 pounds. (ALH)

4-H Bulletin Board

- 4-H Camps - there is still room in all summer camps Sign Up Now!
- No Teen Council Meeting in May.
- Horse I.D. sheets due June 1.
- Horse District/State entries due June 1.
- Kiwanis Karnival
  Families attending the Kiwanis Karnival may send a thank you to Lincoln Center Kiwanis:
  c/o John Loewenstein
  Kiwanis Boys and Girls Committee
  2130 Larchdale Dr.
  Lincoln, NE 68506
- **Cancellation** - the Try-A-Thon scheduled for Tuesday, June 25, has been cancelled. (see Practice Style Revue article below.)

4-H livestock I.D.'s due June 14

Beef, sheep, swine, dairy cattle, dairy goat, bucket calf, and rabbit identifications are due in the extension office by June 14. The livestock ownership affidavits must be filled out completely. Contact your club leaders for I.D. tags for 4-H swine and feeder calves. Breeding heifers must be tattooed. If you have questions about how 4-H livestock needs to be tagged or tattooed, contact your club leader or the extension office. (DS)

4-H horses add trail project

Competitive Trail Riding for 4-H horse members has been approved by the 4-H Council as a new project in Lancaster County. It is open to any 4-H member enrolled in a horse project. The age has been set at 10 years of age or older as of January 1, 1991.

Although competitive trail riding is a common activity among saddle clubs and other groups in this state, it has not previously been a part of the 4-H program. The only other state known to have this project available for 4-H members is Texas. Several members of the North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC) are assisting in establishing trail riding as a project in Lancaster County and as an event at the 1991 Lancaster County Fair. NATRC is conducting the training clinics and providing instructors to qualify 4-H members for participation in competitive trail riding activities.

Four-H members who wish to compete at the county fair must first pass a level one horsemanship proficiency test on the basic skills of trail riding. This test is different from the horsemanship level proficiency test and is a prerequisite for all members entering this project regardless of previous horsemanship level accomplishments. Two instructional clinics are offered to achieve this certification. The first clinic was held on April 13 at the State Fair Park. A second clinic will be offered early in July for those who missed the first clinic or did not complete their level test at the first clinic.

Project leaders for this new program include Margo Ems, Neil Spahn, and Barbara Spahn. Specific information may be obtained from any of these leaders or by contacting the extension office. (WS)

ExpoVisions

ExpoVisions will be held July 10, 11, and 12 on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Campus. It will provide a wide range of "learning by doing" opportunities for youth 12 and older as of January 1. A brochure with detailed information and registration forms are available at the extension office. Registration deadline is May 17. Late registration deadline is June 14, ($5 late fee). No refunds or substitutions after July 1. Cost is $100 which includes meals and housing. (MB)

Camping for teens

Natural Resource and Leadership Camp, June 10-14, at the State 4-H Camp, Halsey, is designed for youth 13 years and older who are looking to increase their skills and knowledge through in-depth workshops and to broaden their leadership abilities. Workshops will include natural resources, photography, shooting sports, art and high project adventure. In addition to workshops, there will be opportunities for leisure activities such as canoeing, tubing, volleyball, campfire ceremonies and dance. Camp fee is $80. Transportation is on your own. Registration forms are available at the extension office. (MB)

Youth Leadership College

Youth Leadership College is a two weekend event in a retreat setting on the UNL campus. High school sophomores, junior and seniors will spend the weekends of June 7-9 and July 19-21 learning to understand themselves and how to work with others in their community. Cost is $200 for the two weekends. Scholarships of $160 are available to the first 50 applicants. After attending, participants will conduct a community activity with a selected community leader.

For more information or application forms, contact the extension office. Applications are due May 20. (MB)

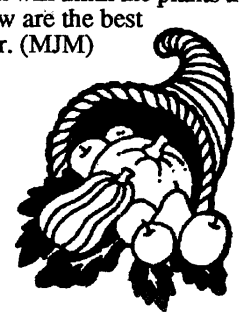
Horticulture news continued...

Gardening for children

This is the time of year when many families are actively working at planning, preparing and planting a garden. What a great activity for involving young children. Gardening can provide children with a wide variety of experiences available nowhere else. Gardening is learning. Regardless of the location, the planting and caring of seeds and plants teaches all of us.

Through gardening, children are provided with opportunities to observe nature. This promotes children's curiosity and interest in knowledge. The whole gardening and growing process allows children to learn new words and expand vocabularies, provides opportunities for comparing objects (i.e. size, shape and color of seeds), and instills patience and perseverance. Children are frequently more willing to taste foods which they have helped grow. Gardening may provide new tasting opportunities in addition to the obvious hands-on experiences, such as working with seeds, plants, soil and water. Because children learn best by doing and by making their own discoveries, let them actually be a part of the gardening.

With so many families raising gardens, an excellent opportunity exists for children to experience growing food. It is nice for even very young children to have their own special plot. In this age when many of our foods are purchased at the supermarket, it is exciting for children to actually learn where and how foods grow. Planning what to grow is great fun and the children will think the plants they grow are the best ever. (MJM)



Delegates to attend state extension convention

Five voting delegates will represent Lancaster County at the Nebraska Council of Home Extension Clubs, Inc. annual convention in Aurora, June 12-15. The delegates were elected at the March meeting of the Lancaster County Council of Home Extension Clubs.

Delegates are Malenna Vogel, council chairwoman and a member of the Apple Corp Extension Club, Lucile Heusinkvelt from Kramer Extension Club, Verna Dienert, Emerald Extension Club, Carole Doeschot, Southern Belles Extension Club and Darlene Isley, Firth Homemakers Extension Club. Anne Meier, a member of the 49'ers Extension Club, was chosen as alternate.

The number of voting delegates a county is permitted is based on membership paid to the Nebraska Council of Home Extension Clubs, Inc. According to the Nebraska Council's Constitution, any county with 600 or more paid members is allowed 5 voting delegates.

Any extension club member may attend the convention. For registration materials, please contact Esther at 471-7180. Registration deadline is May 17. No registrations will be accepted after May 31. (EW)

Home Extension Cultural Arts Contest Winners Announced

Photos taken by Eldine Dove, a member of the Happy Doers Extension Club, and Elaine Bertrand, Busy Bee Extension Club, were selected as the winners in the photography division of the Lancaster County Cultural Arts Contest.

The Quilting Division of the contest was won by Mildred Fauquet, of the M.O.M. Extension Club.

The winning entries will compete in the state contest at the Nebraska Council of Home Extension Clubs, Inc. annual convention in Aurora, June 12-14. (EW)

Home Extension News

Alice Henneman, Esther Wyant
Extension Agents, Home Economics
Lorene Bartos
Extension Assistant

Volunteers needed for apparel sizing project

USDA, National Extension Homemakers Council, and the Institute for Standards Research have a project underway which concerns the improvement of apparel sizing standards for women 55 and older. Currently the clothing industry has no body measurements data base for women 55 and older reflecting changes due to aging which can be used in apparel sizing decisions.

Every state is invited to participate in the study. Nebraska is seeking 51 volunteers to be subjects for this study and 8 to 10 persons willing to be trained in taking and recording the measurements.

If you are willing to devote time to this important study which will benefit older women's clothing needs for years to come, please call the extension office (471-7180) and we will place your name on the list. Let us know if you wish to volunteer to be a "measurements taker," one to be measured, or both. "Measurements takers" will be trained this summer and then data collection will be scheduled.

If you have questions about this project, please call 471-7180 and ask for Esther. (EW)

Women's spring and summer fashion trends

If you like to keep up on fashion trends, here is what you will be seeing in women's fashions in the coming seasons.

Bright colors are hot items, but neon colors are out. White is definitely in and black is definitely out.

You'll see patterns and prints from floral, geometric, and ethnic to abstracts in large blocks and lines of color.

Trims and details will be important. You'll see buttons, lace, raffia embroideries, emblems, tassels and fringe, studs, nail heads, sequins, beading and appliques.

The silhouette of the 50s and 60s will return with simple shifts and chemises. Suits will be tailored with clean, simple lines and jackets appear slightly boxy with slim skirts.

Jewelry is a hot item. Materials include silver, brass, glass, wood beads and raffia. Styles include sixties, pop art, Indian charms, art deco, bold bracelets, multiple strands of beads and pearls, and button earrings.

Source: Rose Marie Tondl, Ph.D., extension clothing specialist. (EW)

Have fun reminiscing with Mom

Mother's Day is on May 12 and many moms will be gifted with visits, phone calls, cards, flowers or candy. Make it a memorable day for mom as well as for yourself by doing a bit of reminiscing. Use the questions which follow to get you started on this activity which will result in knowing more about your mother, mother-in-law or adopted mother. You'll have fun and you will have strengthened your relationship with a most important person in your life.

Here are some starter questions. Add your own questions to the list.

1. What was the happiest birthday you can remember?

2. What is your favorite flower?

3. Tell us about a favorite dress or outfit that you remember?

4. Who was your favorite grade school teacher and how did she influence your life?

5. What games did you like to play when you were a child?

6. Who was/is your favorite movie star?

7. Tell us about the first house you remember?

8. What was your favorite food as a child?

9. What is your favorite color? Has it always been your favorite?

10. Tell us about the happiest time of your life? (EW)

Health Awareness Day

The Lancaster County Home Extension Clubs will sponsor the fourth annual Health Awareness Day in the Farmland Building at the Lancaster County Fair on Thursday, August 8, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The health and safety committee of the Home Extension Club Council with Delta Schmidt, chair, is in charge of plans for the event.

The Nebraska Lions Mobile Screening Unit will be adjacent to the Farmland Building and offer screenings in visual acuity, glaucoma, blood pressure, blood sugar and hearing. There will be no charge for the screenings.

Many area health and safety agencies will have representatives in the Farmland Building to answer questions and provide educational materials to promote good health practices for better self-care. Disease prevention and early detection will be emphasized.

People of all ages are invited to attend the Health Awareness Day and enjoy the Lancaster County Fair which is held on the State Fairgrounds. (EW)

Don't take food poisoning on your picnic

When a fine summer afternoon makes everyone "think picnic," you could find yourself organizing one.

Never fear. Find the picnic hamper and the cooler. Then thumb through these warm weather food care hints before you head to the store.

Picnic shopping

• ***Buy perishable products last at the store*** and get them right home to the refrigerator, or into the portable icechest or insulated bag you're taking on the picnic. Never leave perishables in a hot car while you run other errands.

Cold storage of picnic food

• ***For quick use, perishable products can be kept in the refrigerator for a few days.*** If the store wrap on meat and poultry is clean and not torn, leave it on. Otherwise, re-wrap products in clean plastic or aluminum wrap. Make sure the refrigerator is cooling food to 40 degrees F or lower.

• ***For longer storage, freeze food.*** Wrap items tightly in heavy freezer foil or bags. Make sure your freezer registers 0 degrees F or lower. NOTE: Mayonnaise-based meat, poultry and fish salads don't freeze well; nor do tomatoes and lettuce.

Thawing-do it the night before

Contrary to common practice, it's not safe to thaw meat and poultry on the kitchen counter. Bacteria can multiply dangerously in the outer layers before inner areas are thawed. Instead...

• To allow plenty of time for larger cuts to thaw, ***take meat or poultry out of the freezer and put it on a refrigerator shelf a night or two before*** you need it. Small cuts will usually thaw in the refrigerator over-night.

• ***If the meat is still partially frozen*** when you're ready to leave, no problem. Just cook it a bit longer at the picnic.

Cook everything thoroughly. Hamburger patties, pork chops, and ribs should be cooked until all the pink is gone; poultry until there is no red in the joints. Fresh fish should be cooked until it "flakes" with a fork. ***Steak?*** If you like your steak rare or medium-rare, just remember that there is a chance that some food poisoning organisms can survive such short cooking times.

Take what you know about kitchen cleanliness out to the grill.

• If there's no water faucet available, use disposable, wet handiwipes to ***clean your hands before working with food.***

• ***Keep bacteria on raw meat and poultry from spreading.*** Wash your hands again after working with raw meat or poultry and before handling other food.

Take up cooked meat and poultry with clean utensils onto a fresh plate for serving. Don't re-use utensils, plates, or bowls you used with a raw product - for either the cooked meat or other food.

COOL-IT with a cooler

For a relaxed, worry-free picnic, keep your perishable food - ham, potato or macaroni salad, hamburger, hot dogs, lunch meat, cooked beef or chicken, deviled eggs, custard or cream pies - in a cooler.

While all mayonnaise-based salads should be kept on ice, the *mayonnaise you buy at the store is not a food poisoning villain.* Its high acid content actually slows bacterial growth. But, home-made mayonnaise, if made without lemon juice or vinegar, can be risky.

The cooler should be well-insulated and placed with ice, or you can use a freeze-pack insert. Cold drinks in cans help keep other food cool too.

When possible, place the coller in the shade. Keep the lid on.

Serving young picnickers

Toddlers who don't chew food well can choke when they try to "swallow things whole." To minimize this danger, supervise mealtime. Keep the child seated. Cut hotdogs lengthwise in narrow strips before serving. Watch carrot and celery sticks, grapes, apples, cookies, and nuts, too. Cut or crumble these foods into pieces too small to block the child's throat.

Leftovers?

Put perishable foods back in the cooler as soon as you finish eating. Don't leave them out while you go for a swim or hike.

When possible, put the chest in the passenger area of the car for the trip home. It's much cooler than the trunk!

If you were gone no more than 4 or 5 hours, and your perishables were on ice except when cooked and served, you should be able to save the leftovers. (AH)

Selecting child care

Choosing child care is an important issue for parents. Here are some questions parents may want to ask when looking for child care:

1. What are the licensing laws for day care providers in your city, county or state? Your local consumer protections office is a good place to check for this information.

2. Do caregivers have references? What about special training in child development and education? How many children does each adult look after?

3. Is the home or center clean? Is there enough space inside and outside for the children to play? Is the playground fenced?

4. If the center is large, do visitors and children sign in and out? What are the safety precautions in case of fire or other emergencies?

5. What about sick children? Do they stay home? What if a child needs medical help?

6. How does the staff discipline children? How much of each day is filled with planned activities? Are activities geared to childrens' ages and development?

7. What are the fees for half-days, overtime or sick children?

8. Are kids' pictures or projects hung up and changed often?

9. Do caregivers tell you what your child did that day? How he or she is doing overall?

After your child is in a program, you may wish to ask:

1. Does your child talk happily about the program?

2. Do you know new employees? Do they talk to your child?

Employers may wish to contact the Department of Labor's Women's Bureau Work and Family Clearinghouse. The clearinghouse can provide information about child or elder care. For more information call: (202) 523-4486. (AH)

Like blue? Try blue corn bread

Next time you want to surprise your family with something different for dinner, try serving blue corn bread. Yes, that's right, blue corn bread made with blue cornmeal instead of the conventional yellow or white cornmeal.

You may purchase blue cornmeal at speciality food stores in just the amount needed to try one or two recipes. Food scientists say there's no difference between blue corn and yellow corn except color. However, some folks feel it produces a more moist product which stays moist longer than yellow cornmeal. It's good and guaranteed to boost mealtime conversation. Try it. You may like it.

Blue Corn Bread

1 cup sifted all-purpose flour	1 cup blue cornmeal
1/4 cup sugar	2 eggs
4 teaspoons baking powder	1 cup milk
3/4 teaspoon salt	1/4 cup vegetable oil

Sift flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Stir in cornmeal. Blend eggs, milk, oil and add to dry ingredients. Mix only until smooth. Pour into a greased 9-inch square pan and bake at 425 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes. Cut into squares and serve with butter and honey. (EW)

Home Extension News continued...

Test your facts on fat

1) All foods labeled "low cholesterol" are good for your heart.

2) All foods labeled "lite" or "lean" are low in fat.

3) Manufacturers can't label products as "low fat" or "low in fat" unless the product has less than 30% of calories from fat.

4) To have a low-fat diet you must cut out all fatty foods.

5) You can eat ice cream, cheese, butter, salted snacks and frozen dinners with heavy sauces if you're on a low fat diet.

6) Only people with health problems such as having high cholesterol levels or being overweight should reduce fat in their diet.

7) Fat provides some essential nutrients and is important to include in a healthy diet.

8) Fat and cholesterol are the same thing.

Answers:
1) False. Foods low in cholesterol may be high in saturated fat, which increases your cholesterol level more than anything else you eat.

2) False. These foods may have reduced amounts of a number of ingredients, including fat, sugar, salt, cholesterol or other components - but may still be high in total fat.

3) False. There are no existing labeling guidelines governing use of these terms.

4) False. A low-fat diet can include a variety of foods, some of which may be high in fat, as long as you compensate by eating other foods low in fat. Overall, your diet should provide 30% or fewer of your calories from fat.

5) True. See the answer to 4.

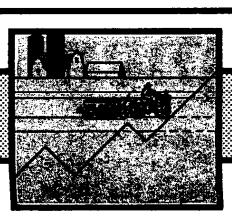
6) False. Most Americans need to cut the fat in their diet by about one-fourth, from 37 percent of total calories consumed to 30 percent.

7) True. Fat is a chemical in foods which your body uses as a concentrated source of energy and to transport important vitamins. In proper amount, it plays an important role in nutrition.

8) False. Fat and cholesterol are not the same. Foods can be high in fat but low in cholesterol, and vice versa. (AH)

Food substitutions

If you don't have:	Use:
Biscuit mix (1 cup)	1 cup flour, 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder, 1/4 teaspoon salt, 1 tablespoon shortening.
Bread crumbs, dry (1/4 cup)	1/4 cup cracker crumbs or cornmeal; or 1 cup soft bread crumbs.
Buttermilk (1 cup)	1 tablespoon lemon juice or vinegar + milk to make 1 cup. Stir and let stand 5 minutes. Or use 1 cup yogurt.
Cake flour (1 cup)	7/8 cup (or 1 cup minus 2 tablespoons) all-purpose flour.
Chocolate, unsweetened (1 ounce)	3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder + 1 tablespoon shortening.
Cornstarch (1 tablespoon)	2 tablespoons flour.
Corn syrup (1 cup)	1 cup honey.
Cream (1 cup)	1/3 cup butter or margarine + 3/4 cup milk.
Milk, skim (1 cup)	1/3 cup nonfat dry milk + enough water to make one cup. Stir well.
Tomato juice (1 cup)	1/2 cup tomato sauce + 1/2 cup water.
Tomato sauce (2 cups)	3/4 cup tomato paste + 1 cup water. (AH)



Ag Update Continued...

Coffee Shop Talk

Question: ***Can corn and alfalfa be ensiled together?***

Alfalfa and corn silages together make up a nearly complete ration for most classes of beef cattle, the exception being finishing cattle in feedlots. The crops can be mixed at either end of the ensiling process — going into the silo or coming out.

Mixing at the time of ensiling offers a number of advantages. The first is flexibility in reaching the ideal 70 percent moisture level for silage and so extending the harvest date for corn beyond the normal window. Direct-cut alfalfa is too wet to ensile properly, but can be used if the corn is excessively dry. Or, if the corn is too wet, the alfalfa can be wilted more than usual to bring the total moisture content down.

Adding corn to alfalfa also aids fermentation because it contributes carbohydrates to the silage mass. During fermentation, microbes convert these carbohydrates into the lactic acid that gives silage its characteristic odor and acts as a preservative.

The third advantage is having a nearly complete feed ready to use from the pit or silo with no additional mixing.

However, this can be a drawback in some cases. If the blend is created for one class of cattle, the proportions may not be optimal for others. In cases where more than one class of cattle are to be fed, it may be better to ensile corn and alfalfa separately and blend to suit the needs of each.

Another important consideration is harvest timing. The previous alfalfa cutting should be managed so that the cutting to be ensiled is at the ideal 1/10th bloom stage at the time the corn reaches full dent and is ready to chop. That way both crops will be at peak quality when they go into the silo.

Question: ***What seasonal ration changes are needed for ewes and beef cows?***

With calving and lambing season getting underway, cow and ewe feed requirements change. The main changes are increased energy and protein requirements as the mothers begin to lactate.

While high quality hay or commercial protein does a good job of providing protein, it may be short of energy, as expressed by total digestible nutrients (TDN). Rations should contain about 56 percent TDN for 1,100-pound mature cows and 63 percent TDN for first-calf heifers with average milk production. This is the time to feed the best quality hay available and supplement with grain or silage to provide extra energy. For example, when feeding average quality alfalfa and native hay to 900-950 pound heifers, supplement three to four pounds of grain per head a day.

Vitamin A and a mineral supplement with calcium and phosphorous also should be fed before and after calving. As spring turnout date approaches, producers in areas where grass tetany is a problem should begin feeding mineralscontaining magnesium oxide 30 to 40 days before the anticipated date.

Ewes also exhibit an increased energy requirement as lambing approaches and lactation begins. During the first 15 weeks of gestation, a 150-pound ewe will need 3.7 to 4 pounds of dry matter per day, or about 2.5 percent of body weight. During the last four weeks of gestation, that increases to 2.6 percent of body weight. During the first six weeks of lactation, the requirement rises to 3.9 to 4 percent.

These needs are met by changing the grain and hay components of the ration. In practical terms, the requirement can be met by feeding three pounds of hay for maintenance and adding 0.60 pounds of grain to the hay component for the last six weeks of gestation. During the last four weeks of gestation, the grain component should increase to 0.68 to 0.77 pounds per day. During lactation, two pounds of grain per day should be fed plus the maintenance of hay. (WLS)

Successful soybeans

Soybeans have a unique ability to yield well when planted over an extended time period. This permits them to complement other crops in the Lancaster County area cropping system. Soybeans planted in May are generally the most productive. Sixty degrees Fahrenheit is a good target at which to start planting.

There are two types of soybean flowering varieties. Indeterminate varieties are those in which flowering begins at the lower nodes and progresses upward on the plant; determinate varieties are those in which flowering begins at all nodes simultaneously.

Determinate (semi-dwarf) varieties respond to planting dates like indeterminate varieties. Late planted soybeans, however, are often subjected to extreme environmental stresses. Because of their short stature and flowering habit, determinate varieties are not recommended for planting after mid-June in Nebraska.

Both determinate and indeterminate adapted varieties will perform well when planted between the second week in May and mid-June if soil temperatures are 60 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. Earlier planting may reduce stands because of the inability of emerged beans to tolerate freezing temperatures. If you intend to plant soybeans after mid-June, your best variety choice is an early to mid-season, adapted, indeterminate variety. Indeterminate varities are much more suited to the stressful conditions associated with late plantings and have greater yield potentials than determinate varieties for these plantings.

Late-April to early-May planting dates are more beneficial to corn than to soybeans. Likewise, late-May to early-June planting dates are more beneficial to sorghum than to soybeans. Planting soybeans in mid-May, after corn and before sorghum, provides the best results for all three crops. (DV)

May pheasant roosters and hens

May is a very active month for roosters and hens. Roosters use energy in fighting, crowing, displaying, and courting hens. The male's crowing peaks this month as he gathers a harem. A rooster can service over 20 hens, but 5 to 10 is ideal. His urge to reproduce exceeds his need to eat, so he continues the weight-loss that started last month.

The hen's energy demands are greater than the male's, so she will increase her food intake. In fact, her food consumption is greater in May than it was last winter. But, she still loses weight as she lays 30 to 50 eggs, starts incubation, and avoids swathers and predators. Her one ovary reaches maximum weight as egg laying begins. The hen consumes 14 times more calcium than the rooster and her protein intake (insects) is six times greater. The supply of May insects is extremely important to egg production.

Fertility and Laying

Even with a harem of 18 hens, the rooster can fertilize 87 to 97 percent of the eggs. Cold, wet weather can slow testicular growth and sperm production, but the rooster can still fertilize 90 percent of the eggs. The rooster will remain sexually active through July to serve renesting hens.

Peak egg-laying is in May. Even though her May food consumption is at its highest level for the year, she is not consuming enough energy to cover the cost of reproduction. Body fat and muscle must then be used to produce eggs. The hen uses 21 to 30 percent of her energy intake for eggs. Her weight decreases to 2.3 pounds, and her body fat decreases 14 percent. Hens may lay 15 to 20 eggs before even thinking about a nest. Once the ovary is producing one egg each day, she will instinctively build a nest and fill it one egg per morning. She may lay 30 to 50 eggs during the course of the breeding season.

One pheasant pair, free of environmental resistance, could produce 20 million pheasants in ten years, even if each young bird lived only long enough to produce one brood.

Delayed Nesting

Long periods of cold, wet May weather can delay and

(continued on page 7)

Questions and Answers

Q. I'd like to expand my mum planting by dividing the plants that have been in place for several years. When's the best time to do that?

A. After the danger of frost is past — early May. Remove the plants from the soil when new growth is 4 inches high. Take well rooted shoots from the outside of each clump and plant them in a sunny, well drained spot with the growing tip just above ground level.

Q. What is it about poison ivy that makes it so hard to identify and avoid?

A. Poison ivy (Toxicodendron radicans) may grow as an upright shrub, a slender vine running along the ground or a climbing vine. Its leaflets, which grow in groups of three alternately along the stem, have a variety of finishes from dull to glossy and margins that may be smooth, toothed and/or lobed. It is so variable that "leaflets three, let it be" is about the only advice on identification that always holds true. Avoiding contact with the plant itself may not be enough, however. The plant oil that causes the unpleasant skin reaction in sensitive people can be transferred to and picked up from clothes, tools, other objects or pets. It's also present in the smoke from burning poison ivy.

Q. I didn't prune my roses much last fall. Should I prune this spring?

A. Yes. Prune in spring to remove winter-damaged canes, all weak growth (canes smaller than the diameter of a pencil), and canes that are rubbing or crossing another. Then shape the plant by cutting back remaining canes to a uniform height — 18 to 24 inches. The exception to spring pruning is climbing roses — prune them after they bloom. (DJ)

New lease on life

Spring is an excellent time to repot house plants. Repotting gives the roots new soil and more room in which to grow.

Generally, transplant to a pot one size larger than the one it is now in. Frequency of repotting depends upon a plant's normal growth rate. Slow-growing plants may require repotting only every two to three years, while the fast growers must be repotted annually.

Several hours before a plant is to be repotted, water it thoroughly. Then turn the plant and pot upside down, gently tapping the sides and edges of the container to remove it. If the roots are heavily matted or woven together, loosen the ball to remove about half of the old soil. This will encourage some new roots to grow away from the tight circular pattern after repotting.

Place the plant in the new pot, holding it at the depth at which it originally grew and add potting mixture. Gently pack the soil around the roots to eliminate air pockets. Leave at least 1/2-inch at the top of the pot free of soil to aid in watering. After repotting, water thoroughly and then not again until the surface becomes slightly dry.

Soil for house plants must be well drained. Also, a soil's physical makeup is very important. If only soil is used, it will pack after several waterings.

Best mixture is one that contains adequate organic matter and coarse soil particles. This ensures drainage and air needed for good root formation and growth. Most house plants will thrive in a soil mixture containing five parts (by volume) of good garden loam soil, four parts peat moss or leaf mold and one part sharp builder's sand. (DJ)

GARDEN GOSSIP HOTLINE
471-7179
Accessible from any phone

On-the-Grow
Continued...

Begin rose care now

Diseases are an important aspect that must be dealt with if roses are to be grown successfully.

Black spot and powdery mildew are the most common and destructive diseases of cultivated roses in Lancaster County. Management of these diseases is necessary to fully enjoy the rose.

Black spot is caused by a fungus that survives the winter in infected canes and in leaf debris beneath the plant. This fungus produces spores on this debris and lesions on living leaves throughout the growing season. On susceptible varieties, 80 percent defoliation usually occurs by the end of August as a result of black spot.

To prevent this from happening, rose growers should remove as much leaf debris beneath the plants as possible and then in May initiate a rigorous fungicide spray program. Fungicides that give good control of black spot are Daconil 2787, Fore or Funginex. Susceptible roses need to be sprayed thoroughly and frequently during the summer.

Powdery mildew is another serious rose disease that develops during cloudy, warm, humid weather. The mildew fungus appears as a white to gray mold growth on leaves, petioles and flowers. Infected plant parts are usually deformed. Roses susceptible to mildew should be sprayed with benomyl or Funginex beginning in early May. (DJ)

Lilacs as cut flowers

Besides being enjoyed in the yard, lilac flowers can also beautify floral arrangements. They combine well with peonies, chrysanthemums, roses and other blooms. However, lilacs do not have a long vase life unless special measures are taken.

Lilacs open from the bottom of the woody branch toward the top. The flowers will have the longest vase life if cut when about half the lower florets are open and some of the upper florets have begun to open. Unopened lilac buds tend to wilt, rather than open.

Use sharp pruners to remove selected branches. Once cut, lilac branches (and other woody stems) should never be pounded with hammers or other objects to promote the uptake of water. Pounding branches only impairs the water carrying vessels that are essential to providing nutrients to the blooms. Place cut branches in warm water immediately. (Warm water contains less air than cool water).

Penn State University research shows that a citric acid solution will make blooms last longer. Add one ounce of citric acid to 2 1/2 quarts of water to make the solution. Leave the branches in this solution the first day. On following days, use a cut flower preservative solution available at florists or garden centers. This solution should be changed every other day because woody stems can foul water rapidly. When you change the solution, recut the stem, removing about an inch of the branch.

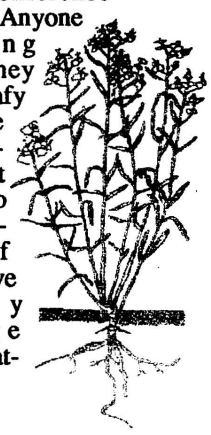
Display lilac blooms in a cool location in the house, away from heat — emitting objects like TVs or radiators, and never in direct sun. (DJ)

Can you identify leafy spurge?

A key to controlling noxious weeds is being able to identify the plants. Leafy Spurge has only been found on about 1000 acres in Lancaster County. Most of these infestations are quite small and it is suspected that there are many infestations that have not yet been identified.

The plants can be killed before they become fully established, therefore it is important that new infestations be identified and treated within the first three years.

There will be a Leafy Spurge Seminar May 6, 1991 at 7:30 PM at the Lancaster Extension Conference Center. Anyone knowing that they have Leafy Spurge and anyone that wants to determine if they have Leafy Spurge should attend. (RS)



Post your address for safety

As I am out driving in the rural areas of Nebraska, I have noticed a disturbing truth. Most of the rural residences do not have address numerals posted on the residence. Every second counts during an emergency, and valuable, sometimes critical, time can be lost if your address numerals are not clearly posted where firefighters can see them when responding to a fire or other emergency situation. Because we care about you and your family, the Southeast Fire Department would like to offer you the following guidelines for placing your address numerals where your local fire department can see them in the

continued on page 8

Lancaster County Council of Home Extension Clubs
Presents

Karen Dwyer

Low Calorie • Low Cholesterol

Microwave Cooking

Thursday, May 9, 1991
7 - 9 p.m.
$4 admission fee

Lancaster Extension Conference Center
444 Cherrycreek Road
Lincoln

Demonstration will include dishes from meats to cheesecakes, cooking tips and ideas to lower fat, calories, salt and cholesterol. Participants will enjoy samples of the dishes prepared.

Proceeds will benefit youth-at-risk by providing scholarships to attend camps held at the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center at Gretna.

Register by calling University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County at **471-7180**. Advance registration is requested.

May hens continued...

slow egg production. The hen will divert energy from eggs to keeping warm. A severe decrease of the hen's energy intake can delay laying, and can decrease egg production 9 percent. The fewer eggs are just as viable as when she was at full production. Even if food were inaccessible for two days, it would take three days before ovary degeneration occurred and egg-laying slowed. In the Great Plains, peak nesting has been delayed until June 1 because of cool springs.

A two or three week delay in nesting does have drawbacks. First, it increases the chance that eggs will be subjected to high temperatures. A 90degree day can start embryo development. A cool night will then kill the embryo. Second, chicks produced from late nests are less able to survive the hot, dry July/August weather. And third, delayed nesting can decrease hen survival next winter. A late nest means late molting, which means delayed fat production. The late nesting hen is forced, in the summer, into producing feathers instead of body fat. Less body fat means less chance of surviving next winter. (DV)

Address continued...

event of an emergency:

Post your address numerals at the front of your house where they are clearly visible from the street or road. We recommend your numerals be at least three inches tall.

If you have a single, curbside or roadside mailbox, place reflective address numerals (available at most hardware stores) on both sides of the mailbox, in addition to the address numerals on your house.

Illuminating your house numbers at night helps your local fire department see your numerals in the event of an emergency during the hours of darkness.

Be sure you use large, plain numerals for your address. Stay away from script or other "hard-to-read" characters. Also, stick to colors that contrast (for example, black numerals on a white house)

Remember, your local fire department cannot help you in a timely manner if they are delayed in finding you. Please do your part to help us help you. Place your address numerals so that we can seem them readily in case of an emergency. **(Bill Montz, Jr., Fire Prevention Officer, Southeast Fire Department)**

The NEBLINE

Nebraska Cooperative Extension Newsletter
Lancaster County

The NEBLINE is edited by Mark D. Hendricks, Extension Assistant, Media, and published monthly by the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68528. For more information, contact Mark Hendricks at (402) 471-7180.

Notice!!!
All programs and events listed in this newsletter will be held at the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County unless otherwise noted.

PRINTED WITH SOY INK
Trademark of American Soybean Association

The NEBLINE is printed with Soy Ink on a blend of 60% recycled paper.

Nebline Feedback Form

In order to best serve our subscribers, this form will appear in every issue of the Nebline. You can use this form to:

1.-change your address and/or order a subscription
2.-register for events and programs sponsored by or held at the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County
3.-submit general comments and/or story ideas.

General Information *(please print)*
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____
Daytime Phone: _____

Workshop Registration
Register for Workshop/Program: _____
Date of Workshop/Program: _____
Time of Workshop/Program: _____
Number of registrations: ___ at $___ each.
Payment enclosed?: _____

Please help make the Nebline your newsletter by letting us know what you would like to see in the Nebline, and how we can better serve your needs.

Newsletter Information
Address Change:
Number of Neblines received: _____
Order a subscription to Nebline: _____
Comment: _____
Story Idea(s): _____

Return to:
University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension
in Lancaster County
444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln, Nebraska
68528-1507

Crop and article inspection program

Lancaster County Noxious Weed Control office will provide noxious weed inspection of a crop or article upon request, as a result of a complaint, or when an infestation comes to the attention of a noxious weed inspector. The purpose of such inspections is to prevent the dissemination of noxious weeds by the movement of infested harvested crops or article from the said premises.

Results

Crop and article inspections will result in the crop or article being:

(1) certified as noxious weed free, or
(2) found to be infested with noxious weeds and quarantined, or
(3) quarantine released if crop or article has been treated to prevent the dissemination of noxious weeds.

Prevention

The best approach to prevention of dissemination of noxious weeds by the movement of harvested crops or articles is to control them before they reach full bloom. Alfalfa hay certified as noxious weed free should command a premium price.

Treatments

Any article infested with noxious weed seed or viable plant parts, including harvested crops needs to be treated before it is moved from the location at which they initially infested.

•All harvesting equipment and other infested equipment should have all loose material removed by sweeping, used of forced air or water, or other methods recommended by the manufacturer.

•Grain and seed should be cleaned and the screenings properly disposed.

•There are no acceptable known treatments for soil, sod, nursery stock, hay straw, and other material of a similar nature.

Alfalfa

There are many alfalfa fields throughout the county with Musk Thistle infestations. Mowing was not an effective method of control in these fields. There were many thistle that went to bloom before the first and second cuttings. As a result, any movement of this hay disseminated Musk Thistle seed. If the thistle were not controlled in April in the rosette stage, roots could be severed two inches below the surface or the first cutting made before any Musk Thistle blooms appear and then spot treating the individual plants with Roundup or by digging.

Small Grain

It is possible for small grain to become infested if ground preparation did not sever the Musk Thistle roots. Any Musk Thistle plants should rouged out or spot treated with Roundup. Two pints of Curtail per acre before boot stage would provide control in wheat wheat-fallow rotations.

Household hazardous waste collections are scheduled

The Health Department, in conjunction with the Lincoln Public Works Department, is conducting the 1991 Household Hazardous Waste Collections. According to Connie Kube, hazardous pollutants coordinator, four collections are planned for this spring. These collections provide citizens an excellent opportunity to dispose of unwanted toxic chemicals. Kube stresses, "It is important to remove unwanted chemicals from the home for health and safety reasons, and to properly dispose of them. When you purchase toxic products you should buy only what you need to do the job."

Citizens can bring unwanted chemicals to the follow collection sites:

Friday, May 17
Airpark Swimming Pool Parking Lot
N.W. 46th & W. Kearney

Saturday, May 18
Belmont Swimming Pool Parking Lot
12th & Manatt

Saturday, June 22
Robin Mickle Jr. High
67th & Walker

All collections are free, and will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Staff at the sites will collect pesticides (including 2, 4, 5T/Silvex); wood preservatives; appliance capacitors and light ballasts containing PCBs; lithium and rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries; waxes; polishes; paint thinners and solvents. Non RCRA-regulated businesses can drop off non-recyclable hazardous waste batteries. Items not accepted include paints, medicines, household cleaners, explosives, antifreeze, automotive wastes, freon, pesticides that have been mixed with water, containers with over five gallons of waste, general household trash and vehicle batteries. Participants are limited to 25 gallons (220 pounds) per collection. Brochures describing safe disposal methods for other types of hazardous waste will be distributed to participants. Citizens are encouraged to check their March or April water bills for an insert with Household Hazardous Waste Collection information.

Each year the typical household generates from three to ten pounds of hazardous waste. Although large industries are usually blamed for hazardous waste problems, many households in America store large quantities of hazardous waste in garages and kitchen cupboards. In Lincoln and Lancaster County, citizens can learn proper hazardous waste handling and disposal methods through the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department's Hazardous Pollutants Program. Since 1985, many harmful products including pesticides, items containing PCBs and various toxic solvents have been removed and properly disposed through this program. (WLS)

Extension Calendar

All programs and events will be held at the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County unless otherwise noted.

May 2 No-till Drill Expo, UNL Rogers Memorial Farm (18500 Adams Street) 10 a.m.-1 p.m.	**May 4** Metro 4-H Horse Clinic in Wahoo 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.	**May 6** Critter Sitters 4-H Club Meeting 7 p.m.	**May 6** Leafy Spurge Seminar 7:30 p.m.
May 9 Paws and Claws 4-H Club Meeting 7 p.m.	**May 9** Low Cal/Cholesterol Microwave Program 7-9 p.m.	**May 9** Rabbits VIPS meeting 7:30 p.m.	**May 9** Open House 4 - 7 p.m.
May 14 How to Exhibit Workshop 9:30 a.m. or 7 p.m.	**May 15** Registrations due for State Home Extension Council Convention	**May 18** Mobile Sheep Clinic, Saunders County Fairgrounds, Wahoo	**May 20** Critter Sitters 4-H Club Meeting 7 p.m.
May 21 Freezing Fruits and Vegetables 7:30-9 p.m. (See April NEBLINE for details)	**May 28** Canning Fruits and Vegetables 7:30-9 p.m. (See April NEBLINE for details)	**May 29** Home Extension Club Night Lincoln Community Playhouse 7:55 p.m.	**June 6** Home Economics Practice Judging